

"Many people now feel like second-class citizens when they enter the doctor's office. That's because everyone in the office knows that the patient isn't really the payer—the patient doesn't hold the purse strings.

"The greater the percentage of medical costs that patients pay to their insurance company in premiums, the more insurers are in charge.

"The greater the percentage that patients instead pay directly to their doctor out-of-pocket, the patients are in charge.

"Whether it's television, computers or Lasik eye surgery, when consumers are in charge, prices stay in check. In 1970, consumers paid for 62% for all privately purchased healthcare out-of-pocket. Today, that percentage is just 26%.

"Consumers are paying less directly to doctors, but they're paying four times as much overall—to insurers or the IRS.

"Only two basic ways exist to cut costs: putting consumers in charge and letting them pursue value; putting the government in charge and letting it ration care.

"So, how do we put consumers back in charge? First, we need to reject the current bills in Congress, which would restrict consumer choice substantially. Then we need to empower consumers in three key ways:

1. End the unfair tax on the uninsured. We should give tax credits to individuals and families that are uninsured or self-insured, thereby putting them on the same ground as those with employer-sponsored insurance.

2. Make it easier for consumers to see prices.

3. Encourage consumer-driven insurance models to give consumers skin in the game.

Intel offers a plan in which it pays all insurance premiums, while its employees pay all health costs up to an annual deductible of about \$2,500 for families—with certain preventive care provided for free.

"Intel employees deposit part of their income into a health savings account tax-free, just like any income that's used to pay for insurance premiums is tax-free.

"These consumers have a stronger incentive to shop for value—as everything they spend up to \$2,500 comes from their own pockets, and everything they save is theirs to keep. Whole Foods offers a comparable plan.

"Across nearly 40 years, the costs of government-run medical care have risen far more, per patient, than the costs of privately purchased care. As consumers' opportunities and incentives to pursue value have diminished, costs have skyrocketed."

Source: Tevi Troy (2007-09 Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services and now a Fellow at Hudson Institute) and Jeffrey Anderson (Senior Fellow in healthcare studies at Pacific Research Institute), Investor's Business Daily.

GOVERNMENT IS THE CAUSE OF HEALTHCARE PROBLEMS—NOT THE SOLUTION

"I would submit that we do not have a healthcare problem in this country, but we do most definitely have a government problem in this country."

"Our healthcare system is a mess, but few understand why, and most tacitly accept the notion that government can or must provide the solutions. But it needs to be recognized that government encroachment into healthcare over the decades was the key ingredient in creating the bureaucratic, inefficient morass that is our current system.

"The logical answer, once this is appreciated, is not to allow the government to fix what it broke in the first place! The answer is to strive to do everything possible toward the goal of getting government out of healthcare completely. This means less regulation, not more. This means less govern-

ment/corporate cooperation (collusion), not more. Lobbying for regulations favorable to one group over another is a toxic concept, based on the immorality of the method itself. Yes, I know that this is the 'way government works' nowadays, and I hear the arguments that we need to have a 'seat at the table,' but that doesn't make it any less wrong."

"HEALTHCARE IS NOT A RIGHT"

"We have gotten to the point where we are ready to hand over the last bit of control of our healthcare system to government bureaucrats. . . . Is it really so shocking to ask the question: 'Why is the government involved in my healthcare at all?' Maybe it's shocking to some state 'Healthcare is not a right.' But it's only shocking to someone with no understanding of natural law, rights versus privileges, or why a socialistic system, healthcare or otherwise, is profoundly immoral. The wealthy will always find a way to skirt such a system while the shrinking middle class pays for it, and the poor, the ones the system claims to benefit, suffer the most. . . .

ADVICE TO ORGANIZED DOCTORS

Recommend to your members that if they are one of the 17% of American physicians that remain members of the AMA, get out. Let's make it even clearer that the AMA doesn't represent American physicians and exists solely to feed off its lucrative CPT franchise (merely one example of corporate/government collusion which poisons the system and raises costs).

Learn what's really going on with healthcare in America. A good place to start is the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons and its special project website, www.takebackmedicine.com.

Opt out of Medicare immediately. Continue to care for seniors, as most physician who have opted out do, through private contracts with reasonable fees. Refuse to be part of a corrupt and inefficient bureaucracy that threatens its physicians with draconian punishments and fines while paying them a pittance for the privilege. Imagine the signal that would send if a large organization of physicians like yours had the backbone to recommend this. It would force Reid and Pelosi to tender the idea of forced physician labor. That would likely wake up physicians, indeed the whole of the American people, to just how much power the government craves.

It is only a true free market in healthcare which will lower costs for all patients, increase availability of care, and spur innovation. Most, unfortunately, have no idea what a true free market looks like. It's not what we have now, and certainly not what is on the horizon.

Sincerely,
DOUGLAS J. MACKENZIE, M.D., F.A.C.S.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1008 to honor the contributions of Catholic schools.

The tradition of Catholic schools in America dates back to settlement of the new world, and through the centuries, Catholic institutions have been incredibly effective at educating

young people in the United States. Today, enrollment in Catholic institutions numbers at above 2 million students across the country with a student to teacher ratio of approximately 14 to 1. Additionally, Catholic schools graduate roughly 99 percent of their students with 97 percent of those graduates pursuing degrees at institutions of higher education.

Mr. Speaker, as we become a more interconnected and global society, the education of our young people will become increasingly important. Catholic institutions help to ensure that those same young people receive quality educations, and I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in supporting H. Res. 1008 to honor the contributions of Catholic schools.

HONORING THE MARTIN LUTHER KING OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE OF MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Martin Luther King Observance Committee of Morristown, New Jersey in my congressional district, which this year is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Since 1970, the Committee, has been dedicated to promoting the rich legacy of the life and works of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with the involvement of the Morris County community in its annual commemorative services.

The observance for 2010 marks the 25th year that Dr. King's birthday will be commemorated as a national holiday. As an expression of local unity and in recognition of this important event, the Martin Luther King Observance Committee is inviting the Morris Clergy Council to join with the committee in sponsoring services on Monday, January 18, 2010.

This year's theme "King's Dream: America, Fight Hate with Love," is the true embodiment of Dr. King's philosophy and teachings. From those individuals who spearheaded the initial celebration, the late Rachel Viola Jones and Dr. Felicia B. Jamison, the planning efforts have broadened to include members of the Morris Area Clergy Council, with representatives from all major faiths. In addition to the two founders, other volunteers who assisted in the early years included Emma L. Martin, George Dorsey, William "Jack" Harris, Reginald and Emanuella Smith, Flora Webb, Norman Jean Matthews, Woody Huff, Elizabeth Lubar, Cecelia Dowdy, Rabbi Z. David Levy, and the Rev. Charles Marks.

The core planning committee is continuing to carry on the tradition of excellence for this great program and has grown to include many dedicated volunteers. Some of those individuals include Nadine Alston, Dr. Judy L. Banks, Pastor Alfonso Sherald, Reverend Leon Sims, Minister Dr. David Hollowell, Reverend Robert C. Rogers, Deacon Henry Lee, George Loveless, Leonard Posey, James Mack, Janet Bonar, Patricia Johnson, Esq., Mae Williams, Elie Sims, Rabbi Donald Rossoff, James Vance, Minister Marian Sykes Johnson, and the Reverend Dr. Jerry M. Carter, Jr.

Madam Speaker, I am quite certain that the Martin Luther King Observance Committee will